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A History of the German Language. By CHAS. W. SUPER, A. M., Ph.D., President of the Ohio University. Size 6x9 in. pp. 316. Hann & Adair, Columbus, O.

Professor Super first proposed to translate Behaghel's *Geschichte der deutschen Sprache*; but, realizing very rightly that a German book, even in English, would not find a warm reception, he decided to take Behaghel's book as a basis and arrange the subject matter in a more popular way than it existed in the purely scientific original; *i.e.*, to treat the subject more prominently from the literary and pedagogical standpoint than from the purely scientific and philological side. His desire is to arouse an interest in a subject which, in our country, has been very little noticed, and thus prepare the way for a more strictly scientific presentation later. The introduction is devoted to an outline of the history, first of the original German stock as it existed before the migrations, and second of those tribes which pushed beyond the old territory and exerted an influence on the countries through which they passed. The tribes specially described are Burgundians, Lombards, Vandals, Goths, Franks, Saxons, Alemanni and Thuringians. Next he proceeds to show the relation between the Teutonic and the other languages of Europe. Following the common plan of the philologists, he divides the Indo-Germanic family of languages into three Asiatic and six European groups. The latter six, Keltic, Slavic, Lithuanian, Italian, Greek, and Germanic, are briefly and well described. The geographical position in which the language is spoken, the number of people speaking it and a description of the literary monuments written in it are given in each case. The book is divided into a General Part and a Special Part; the former treats of the most important changes that the German language has undergone from the earliest known period up to the present time, while the latter is devoted to the modern orthography. After distinguishing between the German language and the Germanic family of languages, the author defines what we mean by the primitive Teutonic speech, and gives some of the general principles upon which comparative philology rests. Then follows a list of the sounds in the primitive speech and the terms used to designate them. The three principles of Grimm's Law are carefully explained, showing how these original sounds changed as the language developed. When the primitive Germans, with their original language, first broke up and scattered, they were divided into three general classes, the Gothic, the Scandinavian, and the West Germanic. The last is of most importance to us and includes the various tribes that have occupied the territory now known as Germany. After discussing the Gothic and Scandinavian groups with their languages, the author passes to the numerous dialects of the West Germanic group, and treats them under the

three usual heads, the Old, Middle, and New High German. Sixteen pages are devoted to O. H. G., in which are discussed the territory covered by peoples speaking the O. H. G., the changes made in the consonants and vowels, the territory occupied by each of the various tribes, and to this is added a catalogue of the extant monuments found in O. H. G. Ten pages are devoted to M. H. G. which is treated in about the same method as the O. H. G. One fact made prominent is that the German language is made up of a large number of dialects, which, existing side by side for centuries, have remained separate and distinct. Fifty-three pages are devoted to New High German, which is discussed under the following general heads: 1. Extent of territory, 2. The Written Language and the Folk-Speech, 3. Unification in a Common Literary Language, 4. Uniformity in the Spoken Language, 5. Some Disadvantages of Uniformity, 6. Characteristics of the New High German. In a chapter entitled Inner History of the German Language, the author discusses analogy and its influence on German. A chapter on the Inadequacy of the Traditional Vocabulary naturally leads to another on the Amplification of the Materials of Speech, which subject is discussed under, 1. Changes of meaning, 2. Coinage of new words, 3. Influence of Foreign Language on the German. The Special Part is composed of eight chapters on the following subjects: 1. New High German Orthography, 2. Accent in German, 3. Doctrine of Sounds in German, 4. Inflections, 5. Analogy, 6. Syntax, 7. Parts of Speech, 8. Proper Names. - - - The book is preceded by a good Table of Contents, but lacks an index.

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Paragraph-Writing. By FRED N. SCOTT, Ph. D., University of Michigan, and JOSEPH V. DENNEY, A. B., Ohio State University. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

The function of the paragraph in English discourse has never been definitely settled. By some writers it has been considered a most important division, by others as of no importance at all. And while its use will remain a matter of personal preference, it would be better for our literature if uniformity of opinion as to the significance of the paragraph could be attained. There is a tendency among modern writers toward laying increased stress upon the office of this division of discourse. The authors of *Paragraph-Writing* aim to establish the paragraph in its highest possible significance, and in addition, to create a new office for it in the teaching of English composition.

The work is the outgrowth of a pamphlet published, a few years ago, in answer to urgent inquiries into the very successful meth-